

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 /054 W
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O 201048Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7584

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7933

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OSORIO COMMENTS ON
POLITICAL PARTIES

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A PRIVATE LUNCH OCTOBER 19 WITH
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MINITTER OF THE
PRESIDENCECY OSORIO, HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD JUST
RECEIVED THE RESULTS OF A PUBLIC OPINION POLL CON-
DUCTED BY THE PUBLIC OPINION ISTITUTE AMONGST A
CROSS SECTION OF 3500 PEOPLE WHICH ASKED THEM TO CITE
A PREFERENCE FOR POLITICAL GROUPS. THE RESULTS WERE
AS FOLLOWS:

RIGHT 3 PER CENT
REFORMISTS I.E. FRAGA 8 PER CENT
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS 24 PER CENT
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS 19 PER CENT
SOCIALISTS 16 PER CENT
COMMUNISTS 3 PER CENT
NO OPINION 25 PER CENT

2. TAKING OFF FROM THESE RESULTS OSORIO SAID THAT HE
APRTICULALRY WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE STRONG SHOWING OF
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. AT THE PRESENT TIMEAN EFFORTS
WERE WELL ALONG IN PUTTING TOGETHER A CENTER GROUPING
OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PERSUASION. RUIZ GIMENEZ HAD
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COME A LONG WAY TOWARDS THE CENTER AND IN BREAKING

AWAY FROM COORDINADORA DEMOCRATICA. IT WAS VERY
LIEKLY THERE WOULD BE A GROUPING WITH HIM AND THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HEADED BY ALVAREZ DE MORANDA PLUS
SOME OF THE REGIONAL PARTIES. IF GIL ROBLES COULD
EVENTUALLY BE PERSUADED TO JOIN THIS GROUP, ALL WELL

AND GOOD, OTHERWISE, HE WILL BE LEFT BY THE WAYSIDE
IT WAS HOPED THAT THESE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WOULD THEN
FORM AN ELECTORAL ALLIANCE WITH THE PARTIDO POLULAR
WITH THE NON SILVA ELEMENTS OF THE UDE AND POSSIBLE
THE LIBERALS. OSORIO SAID THAT HE THOUGH THAT FROM
AN ELECTOAL ALLIANCE THE VARIOUS CD ELEMENTS WOULD
EVENTUALLY MOVE TOWARD A UNIFIED PARTY. HE COMMENTED
THAT CARDINAL TARANCON OF MADRID HAD LET IT BE KNOWN
THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO THE USE OF A
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LABEL FOR A POLITICAL PARTY. IT
WAS NECESSARY TO EMPHAISIZE THE SEPARATION OF THE
CHURCH FROM THE POLITICAL FORMATIONS AND THE CARDINAL
HOPED THEREFORE THAT SOME OTHER NAME WOULD BE FOUND
FOR THIS LARGE CENTER GROUPING.

3. OSORIO BELIEVED THAT THIS GROUP WOULD TRY, IF
POSSIBLE, TO FORM A COALITION ARRANGMENT WITH THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND POSSIBLY OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE
FRAGA FORCES WHO WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO REMAIN
LINKED TO THE VERY RIGHTEST ELEMENTS NOW IN THE
ALIANZA POLULAR. OSORIO EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT
PSOE LEADERS WERE NOT ADVERSE TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
ALONG THESE LINES. OSORIO THOUGHT IT LIKELY
THAT THE PSOE AND TIerno GALVAN'S PSP WOULD
MERGE IN THE NOT DISTANT FUTURE.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE ALIANZA POLULAR, OSORIO SAID
THAT THERE WERE ALREADY SIGNS OF ITS FRAGMENTATON
AND THAT THE ELEMNTS F UDPE HAD MET OCTOBER 18
WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF IT PRESIDENT, RUZ MARINEZ
ESTRUELAS, AND HAD GIVEN SUPPORT TO THE POLITICAL
REFORM PROGRAM. THE ALIANZA IS AN UNNATURAL RELATIONS
SHIP BETWEEN PEOELE WHO HAVE ONLY ONE THING IN COMMON,
THAT IS, A GRUDGE. SILVA AND FRAGA HAVE A GRUDGE
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BECAUSE ONE WAS NOT SELECTED AS PRIME MINISTER AND
THE OTHER HAD NOT BEEN ON THE COUNCIL OF THE REALM
LIST. LOPEZ RODO WAS IRRITATED BECAUSE HE HAD NOT
BEEN MADE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF SPAIN, AND MARTINEZ
ESTRUELAS DID NOT FORGET THAT SUAREZ REFUSED TO MAKE
HIM MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. OSIRIO, IN SELF SERVING
BUT PROBABLY ACCURATE COMMENTS, THOUGH THAT IT WAS
UNLIKELY THAT THE ALIANZA COULD BLOCK THE REFORM BILL

AND IN SO FAILING WOULD SOON FIND ITSELF IN SERIOUS
TROUBLE.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY, OSORIO SAID
IT POSITION SEEMED TO BE ONE WAITING, WHILE ALSO
SHOWING SIGNS OF CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THE
GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT MOSCOW
HAD DECIDED ON DROPPING SANTIAGO CARRILLO AND THAT
HIS SUCCESSOR MIGHT BE JAIME BALLESTRES WHO IS ON
MADRID BUT PLAYS VERY MUCH A BACKGROUND ROLE. IT
SEEMED LIKELY THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS WAITING
TO SEE HOW THE REFORM PROGRAM CAME OUT BEFORE DECIDING
WHAT IT FUTURE POSTURE SHOULD BE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PARTY STRENGTH, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID07933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760393-0600
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761033/aaaabcmn.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OSORIO COMMENTS ON POLITICAL PARTIES
TAGS: PINT, SP, (OSORIO GARCIA, ALFONSO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006